

House Resolution

No. 37

Introduced by Assembly Member Wieckowski

April 10, 2014

House Resolution No. 37—Relative to campaign contributions.

1 WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court’s decision in
2 Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (2010) 558 U.S.
3 310 upset longstanding precedent limiting the political influence
4 of corporations; and

5 WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court’s decision in
6 McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission, No. 12-536 (April
7 2, 2014) further eviscerates our nation’s campaign finance laws
8 by overturning nearly 40 years of law upholding aggregate limits
9 on campaign contributions; and

10 WHEREAS, Aggregate contribution limits restrict the total
11 amount of money a donor may contribute to all federal candidates
12 and other political committees in an election cycle; and

13 WHEREAS, In holding that aggregate contribution limits are
14 invalid under the First Amendment, McCutcheon v. Federal
15 Election Commission creates a legal loophole that allows an
16 individual donor to contribute millions of dollars to political parties
17 and individual candidates; and

18 WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court has long
19 recognized that campaign finance laws are necessary not only to
20 eliminate quid pro quo corruption in elections by preventing the
21 direct exchange of money for official action, but also to curtail
22 undue influence by wealthy donors; and

23 WHEREAS, The democratic process depends on unfettered
24 communication between the people and their elected representatives

1 so that the government may act in response to prevailing public
2 opinion; and

3 WHEREAS, Campaign finance laws that allow limitless
4 contributions subvert this political process by enabling the voices
5 of the few to override the collective voice of the many; and

6 WHEREAS, Removing aggregate contribution limits also
7 engenders an appearance of corruption that undermines the public's
8 faith in its government; now, therefore, be it

9 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
10 Assembly respectfully disagrees with the majority opinion and
11 decision of the United States Supreme Court in *McCutcheon v.*
12 *Federal Election Commission*; and be it further

13 *Resolved*, That the Assembly calls upon the United States
14 Congress to restore constitutional rights and fair elections to all
15 people, not merely to those who can afford it; and be it further

16 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
17 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.